

“Brought Near By the Blood of Christ” – Part 1

Ephesians 2:13

- Paul moves from all humankind in general (2:1-10) to Jews and Gentiles. (2:11-22).

BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS

1. Another “turning point” in the text. “BUT now...” compares to v.4: “But God...”
2. This is a present reality. “But NOW...”
3. This reality is connected with Christ. “But now IN CHRIST JESUS...”

YOU WHO ONCE WERE FAR OFF

- This is a reference in the immediate context to v.11-12.
 - v.11: “remember that at one time”
 - v.12: “remember that you were at that time”
 - As Gentiles, we were at a disadvantage...
- 1. Gentiles (non-Jews) were separated from Christ.**
 - Not expecting or looking for the Messiah.
 - 2. Gentiles were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel.**
 - John 4 (Jesus to the Samaritan woman): “You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.”
 - 3. Gentiles were strangers to the covenants of the promise.**
 - Most non-Jews would have never heard about how to be in relationship with the God of Israel.
 - A God who saves NOT based upon my actions?! A God who commits to His own harm?
 - A God who keeps his relationship with me based upon His faithfulness, not mine?
 - 4. Gentiles had no hope of salvation without the God of Israel.**
 - Then, as now, there was no salvation apart from God’s plan. John 14:6
 - God spoke these covenants in Hebrew. If you did not know Hebrew (or find someone who would translate), you had no hope. E.g., Rahab (Joshua 2, 6), Ruth the Moabite (Ruth 1-4), Naaman the Syrian (2 Kings 5)
 - 5. Gentiles were without God in the world.**
 - Of course, God is everywhere. But Gentiles had no way of knowing Him or His ways apart from God’s Word.

HAVE BEEN BROUGHT NEAR BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

- 1. Nearness means the realities of v.12 have been nullified and reversed.**
 - No longer separate from Christ – but united with Him. 2:5, 6, 10, 22
 - No longer alienated from God’s people – but fellow citizens with the saints. 2:19a
 - No longer strangers – but members of God’s household. 2:19b
 - No longer without hope – but knowing the hope to which God has called us. 1:18
 - No longer without God in the world – but united to Jesus Christ and anchored in heaven. 2:5-6
- 2. Nearness means intimacy with God as one of His children. Ephesians 5:1**
- 3. The MEANS by which this was accomplished: the blood of Christ.**
 - Not the love of Christ, not the model of Christ, not the mission of Christ... But the BLOOD of Christ.
 - Colossians 1:19-20: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
 - Romans 3:25a: ...whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.
 - Revelation 1:5b-6: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - Hebrews 9:22: Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.